

Science, Service, Stewardship



NOAA

Draft
NOAA Catch Share
Policy

**NOAA
FISHERIES
SERVICE**

Coastal Pelagics Species Workshop
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Why Catch Shares?

Current Fisheries Management Challenges...

- Difficulty controlling catch to an overall limit – overfishing
- A race to catch as much fish as fast as possible leading to overcapitalization – too many boats, too few fish, lower profits, poor product quality
- No incentive to reduce bycatch
- Seasonal gluts of fish in markets
- Fishermen go out in unsafe conditions
- US fisheries are not currently producing their full economic value and employment
- Requests for economic assistance are increasing



Outcomes of Catch Shares

Both U.S. & global Catch Shares experience shows they...

- Help achieve conservation objectives, such as ending overfishing
- Reduce overcapacity in the harvesting sector
- Improve the overall economic performance of the fishery
- Improve product quality (e.g., fresh vs. frozen)
- Improve safety at sea
- Increase participants' responsibility for monitoring and management
- Move away from command-and-control management toward approaches where participants play a greater management role



Draft Catch Share Policy

To achieve long-term ecological and economic sustainability of the Nation's fishery resources and fishing communities:

NOAA encourages the consideration and adoption of catch shares wherever appropriate in fishery management and ecosystem plans and amendments, and will support the design, implementation, and monitoring of catch share programs.



Desired Program Features

Specific Management Goals - *All fishery management programs, including catch shares, should identify specific goals for management*

- Councils should develop explicit management goals such that a uniquely tailored catch share program can be designed (e.g., eliminate overfishing, race-to-fish or derby fishing behavior; bycatch reduction; improve socio-economic conditions for fishery participants and/or communities, etc.).



Desired Program Features

Transferability: *NOAA recommends Councils thoroughly assess the net benefits of allowing transferability of catch shares.*

- The choice of whether, when and to whom to allow transfers (by sale or lease) of catch shares is one of the most significant Council design options to be evaluated.
- NOAA is committed to providing technical advice and support to the Councils and affected stakeholders in evaluating the transferability option.



Desired Program Features

Fishing Community Sustainability: *NOAA encourages Councils to take advantage of the special community provisions in the MSA to help assure sustainability of fishing communities, including the preservation of working fishery waterfronts and fishery infrastructure.*

- MSA section 303A provides unique community sustainability design options for LAPs.
- NOAA will work collaboratively to establish programs to help communities design and invest in catch share fishery management options.



Desired Program Features

Resource rent: *NOAA will assist Councils if and when they determine that it is in the public interest to collect royalties in connection with the initial or any subsequent allocations of exclusive harvest privileges.*

- MSA section 303A(d) requires Councils to consider collection of royalty payments; receipts are deposited in a special fund to be expended only in the fisheries from which they came.



Desired Program Features

Review Process: *NOAA recommends that Councils periodically review all catch share and non-catch share programs, including ensuring the specific goals chosen are measurable and tracked to gauge whether a program is in fact meeting its goals and objectives.*

- Performance metrics may include fishery stock status, impacts on fishing communities, dynamics of participation and entry into the fishery, prices, financial performance.



NOAA Program Support

- NOAA will provide leadership, technical advice and support for the consideration & use of catch share programs.

This includes collaboration with its many federal, state and constituency partners to support catch share programs.



Public Comment Period

The draft NOAA Catch Share policy will be open for public comment until April 10, 2010

Public comments can be submitted electronically via the NMFS catch shares comment website:

www.nmfs.noaa.gov/catchsharescomments

or emailed to catchshares@noaa.gov